Turner

DISTRICT ATTORNEY

PARISH OF ORLEANS
STATE OF LOUISIANA
2700 TULANE AVENUE
NEW ORLEANS 70119

JIM GARRISON
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

March 29, 1968

PRESS RELEASE

With regard to the pending theft charge against Mr. Gurvich, naturally he is to be presumed innocent until he is convicted.

However, a myth appears to have developed with regard to Mr. Gurvich which is unfair to the investigative staff of the District Attorney's Office. Mr. Gurvich was never at any time "chief investigator, "chief aide" or "chief" anything. He was never at any time a member of the regular investigative staff, nor was he ever on the payroll of the office. He had no one working under him nor was he in charge of anyone or anything.

The myth that he was "chief" of anything seems to have grown from his own pronouncements after he appeared on national news media last summer. The fact is that when he asked me to give him a title as an investigator I said this would not be possible since he was not a part of our regular investigative staff. I said that if he wanted a title he could describe himself as an "aide". He then had cards

printed describing himself as "special aide", a modest self-promotion which was indicative of things to come.

Mr. Gurvich was never asked to help in the investigation. Instead he appeared without warning one day and said he wanted to help in the investigation. I informed him that we did not have the money to hire any further personnel. He said that he would work for nothing. Several months later he said he had to have a copy of the files in the case in order to study them at night.

Members of my staff, who had warned me against letting Gurvich come aboard, now earnestly warned against entrusting him with copies of our entire files in the case. Consequently, we gave him a file from which much of the critical material was removed. Shortly after receiving copies of the files Mr. Gurvich disappeared from sight. Two months later he appeared in the New York area where he began to be featured as my "former chief investigator" who, overwhelmed by conscience, had quit the investigation.

In the meantime, Mr. Gurvich made copies of the files which he had obtained from the office and transferred them to unauthorized individuals, including a representative of Mr. Walter Sheridan. Mr. Sheridan, it will be recalled, is a former employee of the Justice Department, now

ostensibly with NBC, who was caught offering money to a State witness if he would leave the jurisdiction before trial. Gurvich has admitted that he copied the files and transferred the copies without authority.

Mr. Gurvich's actions should not be deemed as representative of all private investigators. There are many individuals in this profession who are quite trustworthy.

JIM GARRISON

lcs